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## CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 3222c, 5821, 5831, 5832 of this title.

### § 5501. Short title, purpose, definitions, and authorization of appropriations

#### (a) Short title

This chapter may be cited as the “Agriculture and Water Policy Coordination Act”.

#### (b) Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to ensure—

- (1) that the Department of Agriculture develops, implements, and sustains a coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive intra-agency program to protect waters from contamination from agricultural chemicals and production practices; and
- (2) increased efforts by the Department of Agriculture in extension, technical assistance, and research on the relations between agricultural production and the contamination of water.

#### (c) Definitions

For purpose of this chapter—

- (1) The term “contaminant” means any matter which, in its original form or as a metabolite, degradation, or waste product, as a constituent of water may impair the quality of water or may have a potential adverse effect on human health or the environment.
- (2) The term “Department” means the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (3) The term “food and agricultural councils” means those councils established by the policy of the Secretary in each State and made up of the leaders of programs within each State that represent agriculture.
- (4) The term “soil and water conservation committees” refers to the committees established within the respective States by State law and which include the leaders of appropriate State agencies that address soil and water conservation.
- (5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.
- (6) The term “State” means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and federally recognized Indian tribes.

#### (d) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1991 through 1997 to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1481, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3622; Pub. L. 104-127, title VIII, §831, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1168.)

## AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-127 substituted “1997” for “1995”.

### § 5502. Soil and water activities

#### (a) Purpose

The Congress declares that an additional purpose of the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service is to aid in protecting and improving the quality of water.

#### (b) Conservation plans

The Secretary, when reviewing conservation plans for compliance certification, shall determine the impact that such plans may have on agriculture and water quality planning. The Soil Conservation Service shall complete this determination by January 1, 2000.

#### (c) Acquisition of water information through national resources inventory

The Secretary shall determine within six months after November 28, 1990, whether the national resources inventory can be modified to acquire useful information on water conditions and surface conditions that affect water quality and supply. In making this determination, the Secretary shall consider—

- (1) the costs, limitations, opportunities, and capability of expanding the inventory to include water matters; and
- (2) whether the natural resources inventory can be integrated with alternative sources of data on water from Federal and State agencies.

#### (d) Annual report

The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate in conjunction with the report required under section 5403(c) of this title. The report shall specify the—

- (1) activities and accomplishments of the Soil Conservation Service during the preceding year, including measures taken to enhance the ability of the Service to address water contamination problems;
- (2) plans of the Secretary for the subsequent year, concerning measures expected to be taken to enhance the ability of the Service to address water contamination problems; and
- (3) progress made in carrying out the purpose stated in subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1482, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3622.)

### § 5503. State water quality coordination program

#### (a) Establishment

The Secretary shall require the establishment of a water quality coordination program within each State. To the greatest extent possible, the Secretary shall use the expertise of the food and agricultural councils.

#### (b) Membership

Each State water quality coordination program shall involve those departmental agencies specified in subsection (c) of this section that

are operating within the State. For the purpose of coordination, the State water quality coordination program shall include, should they choose to participate, those State agencies with complementary water program authorities and programs. These State agency members should include the State agencies that are members of the respective State's soil and water conservation committees. The program shall also include the education program coordinator designated under section 5832(b) of this title.

**(c) Agencies**

The agencies referred to in subsection (b) of this section are: the Agricultural Research Service; the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; the Cooperative State Research Service in conjunction with the system of State agricultural experiment stations; the Economic Research Service; the Extension Service, in conjunction with State and county cooperative extension services; the Forest Service; the National Agricultural Library; the National Agricultural Statistics Service; the Soil Conservation Service; and other agencies within the Department deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

**(d) Program leader**

The program leader of the State water quality coordination program shall be designated by the Secretary from among the Federal agency representatives in subsection (b) of this section.

**(e) Purpose**

The water quality coordination program within each State shall serve as the focal point for coordinating the Department's water programs with agencies of that State. In addition to other actions, each water quality coordination program shall—

- (1) serve as the focal point within the State for the coordination of Department-supported agricultural water programs with the water programs being conducted by other Federal agencies within the State;
- (2) coordinate departmental activities with other Federal activities, within the State with water quality plans developed by that State in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws;
- (3) review progress being made on identification and mapping of hydrologic units within that State; and
- (4) review the needs of that State to assess the Federal assistance required for State programs to address agricultural sources of water contamination.

**(f) Advisory panels**

The chair of the water quality coordination program in each State may establish an ad hoc advisory panel that shall include farmers, representatives of conservation groups, and advocates of sustainable agricultural practices, agribusiness, chemical and fertilizer industries, agricultural commodities, lending institutions, and trade organizations.

**(g) State and regional research priorities**

The water quality coordination program for each State shall request appropriate representa-

tive scientists from the Agricultural Research Service, the State agricultural experiment stations and the agricultural departments of the land-grant universities, to work with the water quality coordination program to establish a prioritized agriculture and water research agenda for the State. This agenda shall address the research topics identified in section 5504 of this title and the concerns or findings established by the activities described in subsection (e)(4) of this section. The State research priorities identified under this subsection shall be compiled and reviewed by the appropriate regional and area divisions of the Cooperative State Research Service and the Agricultural Research Service to develop coordinated regional research priorities.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1483, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3623; Pub. L. 102-237, title II, §201(e), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1847.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-237 inserted “and” after “Animal”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-237 effective as if included in the provision of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, to which the amendment relates, see section 1101(b)(1) of Pub. L. 102-237, set out as a note under section 1421 of this title.

**§ 5504. Water quality and nutrient management research**

**(a) Purposes**

It is the purpose of this section to establish a coordinated water quality and nutrient management research program at the Department of Agriculture. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall undertake efforts to—

- (1) reduce the sources of contaminants of surface and ground water resources through the development of farm systems which replace or conserve the use of such contaminants while maintaining farm profitability;
- (2) develop information and technologies needed to formulate integrated farm chemical and plant nutrient and animal waste management strategies which avoid contamination of surface and ground water, especially in areas identified by State and Federal monitoring or regulatory efforts as having current or potential water quality problems; and
- (3) monitor and better evaluate the extent of water contamination caused by farm chemicals, plant nutrients, and animal wastes.

**(b) Coordination**

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that all activities undertaken are coordinated with other programs within the Department of Agriculture, other Federal agencies, and with State governments.

**(c) Research**

Research projects on water quality funded in whole or in part by the Secretary under this section shall include research to help—

- (1) develop farming systems and practices which can prevent water contamination while maintaining and improving profitability, including—